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PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—BOHEMIAN GIRL—ROOKWOOD.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—IL BARBIERE DI SEVIGLIA—LA MAJA DE SEVILLA.

NIBLO'S—BARBER OF SEVILLE.

BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street—PAUL PRY—PARIS AND LONDON.

NATIONAL THEATRE, Chatham street—RICHELIEU—PHILIP QUARE AND HIS MONKEY.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—THE IRISH HEIRESS—PRACTICAL MAN.

WHITE'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES, 17 and 19 Bowery—ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD—ROUGH DIAMOND—PERFECTION.

AMERICAN MUSEUM—Afternoon—GENERAL TOM THUMB—VILLAGE GOSSIP. Evening—GENERAL TOM THUMB—FORTY THIEVES.

HELLER'S SALOON, 539 Broadway—NECROMANCY.

PANORAMA, 586 Broadway—BANVARD'S PANORAMA OF THE HOLY LAND.

CHRISTY'S OPERA HOUSE, 472 Broadway—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY BY CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.

WOOD'S MINSTRELS, Wood's Musical Hall, 444 Broadway—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY.

CIRCUS, 37 Bowery—EQUESTRIAN ENTERTAINMENTS.

New York, Monday, January 17, 1853.

The News.

The new Cunard steam ship Arabia arrived yesterday. The greatest interest was manifested in the result of her trip, as compared with that of the Collins steamer Baltic. Their passages from wharf to wharf were as follows:—

The Baltic	12 days,	22 hours.
The Arabia	15 "	1 "
In favor of Collins	2 days,	3 hours.

The general features of the news brought by the Arabia are of a far more interesting character than the telegraphic synopsis of the same had led us to suppose. The letters which we to-day give from Lord Palmerston, while Secretary of the Foreign Office, relative to the continuation of the slave trade in Cuba in total violation of the treaty stipulations of Spain, will be read with considerable attention at this time, when Lord P. has just returned to the English ministry, and when it is declared by the British papers that the naval squadrons of that government were never stronger or more active and persevering in their efforts to suppress the inhuman traffic; and, also, when American Congressmen are busily occupied in the discussion of our relations with Spain and other countries, and particularly with regard to the tripartite treaty proposed by France and England. Among other things, it will be observed that Lord Palmerston urged, as one reason why Spain should abolish slavery in Cuba, that such an act would create a powerful element of resistance to any scheme for annexing the island to this country. Fortunately for her Spanish Majesty's government, as well as for her subjects in Cuba, her ministers did not deem it expedient to follow Lord Palmerston's suggestions. Read the official correspondence, and the article on the same subject which we extract from the London *News*. These matters afford much food for serious reflection.

But the British movements concerning Cuba and the slave trade do not by any means comprise all that is interesting from Europe, as will be found on reference to the lengthy details which we elsewhere publish. The terrific gale which commenced on Christmas day and swept along the English coast was of a far more destructive nature than was at first anticipated. A great many vessels were wrecked, and the loss of a large number of lives is recorded. One of the most serious maritime disasters was that which occurred to the brig Lily, which had fifty tons of gunpowder on board. During the prevalence of the storm she was driven ashore on a small island near the Isle of Man, and several of her crew, including the captain, were drowned. The next day, while the survivors of the ship's company, assisted by the neighboring inhabitants, were endeavoring to save the cargo, the powder exploded, rending the vessel into fragments, killing thirty-two persons, and leaving only one of those in the vicinity of the scene to relate the awful calamity. Let us turn to a more enlivening topic. The London *Times*, in alluding to the spirit of American enterprise and perseverance, as evinced at the recent conflagration of Sacramento, remarks that all history may be searched in vain for a parallel. True; the Yankees are like India rubber balls—the harder you throw them down, the higher they bounce. The statistics relative to the productiveness of the Australian gold fields are astounding. It is stated that the weekly yield of the Australian diggings may be estimated at eighty thousand ounces. The Hudson's Bay Company are complaining that the high rates of wages in California and Oregon have proved a great detriment to the colonization and permanent settlement of Vancouver's Island. British agriculturists and laborers, like most other sensible people, prefer going where they can make the most money, and, therefore, on being conveyed to the possessions of the company, generally take the first opportunity to leave for American territory.

On glancing at the state of affairs on the continent of Europe, it will be found that a monotonous quiet everywhere prevails. From Spain we learn that the intended resignation of the American Minister, Mr. Barringer, had occasioned expressions of regret in official quarters. Emperor Napoleon III. is busily engaged in making ample provision for his relatives, and is said to have sent a couple of them on a mission to Dusseldorf, to plead for the hand of a young German Princess, whose name is entirely too long for repetition. So he has not given up his matrimonial intentions, and, as he usually carries his point, it is likely that he will get a wife, after a while. One item of especial interest to the upper ten of this city, will be the announcement that the latest Parisian fashion is to powder the head with gold dust and silver filings. As this is an extravagant kind of luxury that cannot be conveniently afforded except by the very richest, we may possibly have an opportunity, shortly, of ascertaining what the aristocracy of New York are made of.

The Sabbath and the cold weather combined have tended to render our telegraphic intelligence exceedingly brief this morning. The weather was almost too keen to expect reporters to venture out of doors, even had there been news to look for. From Cold Spring we learn that the Hudson river was frozen over on Saturday night, and that yesterday people were crossing on the ice between that place and West Point. The day and evening were intensely cold in this vicinity, as all know who ventured to attend church. At one o'clock this morning the mercury in the thermometer was only twelve degrees above zero, with a prospect that it would reach a still lower point before daylight.

A correspondent at Washington states that in view of the present complex state of our foreign relations, the proper committees of the Senate are contemplating the importance of increasing the efficiency of the army and navy. It is probable they will recommend the [illegible] of a through steam mail[illegible] and a thorough fortification of the Pacific coast. Everything now betokens that Congress will carry out to the letter the precepts of Washington, Jefferson, Monroe, and others of our illustrious countrymen of by-gone days. Let us be fully prepared to meet and drive back any trouble that may hereafter present itself from abroad.

We elsewhere publish a communication relative to a project for erecting a telegraphic line to the Pacific. Should Congress accede to the request of the memorialists named, the latter expect to complete the work in two years or less. It is anticipated that a tariff on communications to San Francisco, about twice as high as the present between this city and New Orleans, will yield the company an adequate profit.

The letter from General Wool to the Secretary of the Mechanics' Institute of this city contains many interesting incidents relative to the rise and progress of a few of the eminent men of our own land. Young and old, male and female, will read it with pleasure and profit.

A full report of the Military Convention, which took place at Syracuse a few days ago, may be found in another column.

The Rev. Charles Spear, of Boston, who has distinguished himself by his continuous efforts to improve and solace the condition of prisoners, and to procure the abolition of capital punishment, delivered an address last evening, in the Bleecker street Universalist church, on the subject of his recent mission to Europe to examine the prison system there. We give a pretty full report elsewhere.

On Saturday morning the Broadway Railroad Injunction case was in part heard in the Superior Court. Mr. Van Buren submitted and argued upon various points for the plaintiffs, on the order to show cause why an attachment should not issue against the defendants for contempt. Mr. Field replied on the part of Alderman Sturtevant, one of the defendants, but did not conclude his argument, the Court rising at 5 o'clock. The case stands adjourned until Saturday next, at half-past 10.

The southern mail, due at ten o'clock last night, had not arrived at one this morning.

In addition to much other interesting information, our columns to-day contain a lengthy communication relative to the Cuban Question and the Cuban Invasion; Synopsis of the Message of the Governor of New Jersey; Proceedings of the New Jersey Colonization Society; List of New Patents; Distressing Suicide in Philadelphia; Law and Commercial Intelligence; a great variety of local news, including further particulars of the attempt by a negro to murder Mr. Haydock, &c.

Will the Cabinet be an Unit?—That's the Question.

As the time for the inauguration of the new President approaches near, the anxiety to know who will compose his Cabinet becomes the more intense. The rumors which are whispered in private circles, and the bold assertions that are confidently telegraphed each day, respecting various names before the public, are alike founded on idle speculation and private feeling. They are unworthy of notice, and of comment. The publication, therefore, of this kind of news, must be taken only for what it is worth, without any endorsement from us as to its intrinsic value.

The calm which now pervades the political horizon may be assumed, by some, as a sure omen of serene skies for the incoming administration. Others, less sanguine, may view it as the lull that follows the storm of an exciting election, which, if of long continuance, may stagnate into pestilence, breeding defeat and destruction to the party so recently triumphant. One class believe that certain well defined principles were established by the people, in the election of General Pierce, which will be adhered to for all time, and that his administration, sustained by public opinion, will have nothing to dread, and no dangers to encounter. Another class imagine that some of the principles which should govern the incoming executive were not clearly expressed, but were only understood, and on that point there is a wide margin for a difference of opinion and for dispute. Moreover, that understanding may be construed in a double sense. The platforms of the two national conventions—whig and democratic—did not materially differ on the point of principle upon which the election turned. It might be said they did not differ at all. Yet, with similar principles on record, no one will say that the election was canvassed with reference alone to personal preferences and personal popularity of the candidates. Upon what, then, was the issue? Now, upon the solution of this question depends the complexion of the incoming Cabinet. This fact must be borne in mind by those who so confidently speak of the gentlemen who will surround the President. It would be well to settle that principle before writing down names in future.

It might be supposed that both united in destroying the freesoil party, which was in the field with their candidate. But their supposition would be wide of the mark. For the freesoil party was divided, and, as a formidable enemy, despised by the masses of both whigs and democrats. One section, led off by William H. Seward, was ranged under the banner of General Scott, controlling his movements and making him their candidate; while another section, under the banner of Martin Van Buren, were no less zealous, but less conspicuous for General Pierce, who, after deserting their party and electing General Taylor, in 1848, came in again in 1852, the most ravenous for the spoils, and of the least importance to Gen. P.'s success. The Southern States were clamorous for a strict adherence to the compromise act, and the whigs and democrats were bidding high for their confidence and their votes. The real issue, therefore, was narrowed down to the question of which party was freest from the taint of free soilism. Both whigs and democrats admitted that free soil men were in their ranks; but both denied that they would have any share in originating the measures and carrying out the principles of the next administration, as cabinet counsellors, in the event of their success; but the known opinions of Gen. Pierce and Mr. Seward on the compromise measures satisfied the country that the election of Gen. Scott would be the renewal of late disunion agitation. It must, however, be understood that the candidates, on this point, were silent as the grave. The platforms had not settled the matter—the candidates had not been more explicit. The people of the Southern States, where the contest was decided, had to trust to promises, and promises, too, by implication, in casting their votes, by an unprecedented unanimity, in favor of General Pierce. Yet all this does not create an obligation on the part of the new President to respond to their confidence and comply with their wishes. He is free to follow the bent of his own mind. There would be no apparent violation of faith on his part. With him it becomes only a question of policy whether he will select, in the face of the overwhelming defeat of Seward and freesoilism in November last, a democrat with free soil tendencies for one of his cabinet. And on this point much can be said on both sides.

It is expected that a cabinet appointment given to a free soiler, would reconcile this State to the new executive; firmly bind the democratic party as a band of brothers, and add largely to the numerical strength, at all subsequent elections. But this is only supposition. The event might be different from what is anticipated. If the hunkers should take an opposite view of the case, and imagine themselves ostracised because they had always been consistent in their opposition to the free soil mania, and that the other wing of the party was rewarded because its members had once been traitors to the Baltimore platform, and would be again if not well compensated, it is not hazarding much to say that treason to the party will flourish again, in proportion to the benefits to be derived from it. But the next breach in the ranks would come from those who heretofore stood the most firm to democratic principles. What, therefore, the executive might gain in strength, would be dearly paid for in principles suspected and in prestige damaged.

In the adjoining States, and more especially in the South, those who had advocated the election of Gen. Pierce, as free from all taint and free soil tendencies, without communion and brotherhood with them, or any of them, and who had been elected to Congress on the strength of their assurances to the people, would have to answer for their false prophesies; and the sins which they had so eloquently portrayed as likely to be perpetrated by Gen. Scott, if elected, would have to be answered for by them, as being committed under their own darling democratic administration. How could they flee from the wrath to come? How could they face their constituents with their former speeches quoted against them, and the no less eloquent and elegant extracts drawn from the choice literature of the barnburner library, denouncing the traffic in human flesh, and declaring the duty to humanity to draw a cordon around States that were a libel to republican principles and a disgrace to human nature? Uncle Tom's Cabin contains no choice gems so rich in thrilling eloquence, in words that breathe and thoughts that burn, as the speeches of those gentlemen who now are aspirants for the highest seats in the political synagogue, and whose claims are, in reality, founded on the position which those same speeches have given them in the party. It does not require the gift of prophecy to foretell the result of such a canvass. Every democrat would go down, and if not, he would go into opposition to save himself.

Should a free soil democrat be selected for the cabinet, the equilibrium, no doubt, would be restored by appointing one of the State rights party as a counterpoise. That is, the load would be lightened by making it double, on the principle of the miller's bag, where two stones can more easily be carried on horseback than one. The mosaic composition of such a cabinet would certainly be fanciful and ingenious, and highly beautiful, as all mosaic work is, or ought to be. But this kind of art belongs more to the ornamental than the useful. All composite productions are brittle—they are liable to break—they lack strength. Those of a political cast are not free from the imperfections attendant upon all others. It is idle to suppose that the country will put faith in the sincerity of any man professing to uphold principles which he had opposed until his coming into office. Communion with saints will not give a new heart, but communion with saints may make a hypocrite. The recent defeat of the Derby administration in England clearly teaches that the public will never permit any man or set of men to take charge of measures which they had opposed; and the present Aberdeen ministry is deficient in prestige, because its component parts are not solid and united, but of a composite order.

No one will suppose that the free soil wing of the democratic party ought to be excluded from office under the incoming administration. They were useful allies—powerful auxiliaries—and fought manfully for General Pierce; but they were only allies and auxiliaries—not an integral portion of the party. It would be ungenerous not to reward them for their services and sufferings; but it might be unjust to pay them out of the spoils which more properly belong to the veterans who never deserted nor were dismayed in the hour of disaster, to which the others had contributed. The Roman Consul caressed, extolled, and remunerated his Germanic allies; the French Emperor, in after times, imitated his example towards the descendants of the same people. But Cæsar never gave to one of those allies the command of a cohort, nor did Napoleon create from among them a marshal of the empire.

These suggestions are not thrown out to influence the choice of gentlemen for seats in the new cabinet. The decision of this delicate question, we are inclined to believe, has already been made by the President elect. If there be any doubt in the mind of any one speculating on cabinet formations, let him consult the countenances of the leading whigs, democrats and free soilers at Washington. The bump of hope is more strongly developed among the last. This will put an end to the daily parade of insignificant names for cabinet appointments.

THE NAVY AND THE OLD FOGIES.—As an offset to the bill of Commodore Stockton for the reorganization of the Navy, the *National Intelligencer* at Washington, with the zeal of a faithful old antiquary, digs up from oblivion an old letter of Mr. Richard Rush, illustrative of the splendid achievements of our naval officers in the war of 1812. Everybody, in the country and out of the country, is fully aware of the glory of those achievements. But naval officers at that day of twenty-five to thirty, when they came to have forty years added to that, are apt to become a little shaky, a little superannuated, a little self-conceited with their old notions, and too rigidly dead-set against modern innovations upon the old system of things, and entirely too cautious and slow to be any longer practically useful. The *National Intelligencer* is the proper organ of these venerable old stagers. Its glory, like theirs, belongs to a past age. Like them, it has had its day. Like them, it is in the sere and yellow leaf, and, with them, it ought to be put upon the retired list, with a good comfortable pension for life. But this is the year 1853. It is the golden progressive epoch of the nineteenth century. The world is all awake and all alive. Our country is expanding into the proportions of a mighty giant among the nations—our commerce is increasing wonderfully the wide world over. We have some ugly international questions to settle and we may come to hard knocks. We want, then, an efficient navy, controlled by young, vigorous and enterprising men, cotemporaneous with the age. Let, therefore, the old people retire, and let the navy be reorganized without delay.

The Social Relations of the United States and England.

"One great advantage of this country," says an eminent English writer, in speaking of the United States, "is, that here circumstances are comparatively powerless; that they do not exercise such an influence on a man's fate as in Europe; that it is more in his own hands." This random touch, hastily added at the close of a long and interesting letter, betokens the eye of a shrewd observer. Nothing is more characteristic of Americans than their perfect confidence that their destiny is in their own hands, and that it will depend on themselves to rise to affluence or sink to beggars. It is to that confidence that they owe much of the energy which raises them so far above other races of men; feeling a calm reliance in his own powers, and in them alone, the Yankee knows no insurmountable obstacle, and estimates objections which would deter a foreigner from further struggles as mere delays of a greater or less duration. Succeed he must—and he does. How could he help it? That pale faced man, with straggling beard and hollow cheek, whose ignorance of the conventional usages of refined society has shocked you so much, is calmly calculating over a segar whether he cannot build a railroad over the Rocky mountains, or lay a line of telegraph across an arm of the sea; if nothing more promising turns up, and he resolves to make the attempt, depend upon it, in nine cases out of ten he will succeed. This other gaunt, barenecked man, whose splay limbs are in everyone's way, is just maturing a scheme over which he has brooded many an anxious hour; a few weeks hence you will hear of his name as the patentee of the famous new steam boiler. No one will know of his project until he has secured his patent. Step this way. Here stand assembled a couple of dozen pioneer settlers of the far West; they require a road, which will cost $50.000: amongst them—and they are all here—they can only collect $12. Do you see any signs of hesitation or doubt? Far from it. One can subscribe provisions; another boards; a third his own labor; a fourth that of his team—and so on, each relying calmly on himself and his associates, and the road is begun with as little uneasiness as to the final result as if they had thousands deposited with their bankers. These are common instances. They illustrate one of the most striking traits in our national character—our independence and self-reliance. A steady habit of leaving nothing to chance and nothing to Providence, but foreseeing every mishap and providing against every possible accident, has matured within us a consciousness of power which is, of itself, an admirable guarantee of success.

That such is not the rule in Great Britain, the writer whose remarks we have quoted above might well regret. There, circumstance is everything, or nearly everything; the man little or nothing. Professional men estimate their chances of success by the wealth and adhesiveness of their "connexion;" politicians aim at the favor of some powerful patron, under whose ægis they may creep into notoriety and parliament; the only hope of a man of business is to step into the shoes of his father or his uncle who has gone before him. Few, very few, are the sole architects of their own fortunes. There was an Eldon, of course, a Cooper, a Jones Lloyd, and others whose names we might mention, who are exceptions to the rule; but their example is rarely followed. Ambition, in England, is confined to a narrow sphere. The splendid talents of a Disraeli, even backed by the powerful connections of his father's friends, would never probably have raised him to the chancellorship, had he not flung his weight to the side of that party whose only claim to power was wealth and hereditary rank. Here, on the contrary, a man can set no limits to his aspirations. The highest rewards in the gift of the people, political power, princely wealth, regal splendor, are within the grasp of the humblest citizen. Neither friends, nor patrons, nor an honored name, nor a magnificent patrimony, will avail him anything. Every American starts in life with the consciousness that he must conquer each grade with his unaided strength.

It is to this circumstance, more than any other, perhaps, that the practical bent of our minds is owing. We aim at results where Englishmen or Frenchmen would spend time over ways and means. We see everything possible; and having set our hearts on a grand prize disregard everything which does not directly advance our pursuits. Foreigners have failure constantly in view, and attach themselves more to detail. When an American has resolved to make a fortune, it matters little to him whether he is miserably lodged in an attic in an obscure street, or whether he is enabled to indulge in the refining intercourse of the female sex; his one aim is constantly before his eyes, and nothing diverts him from his object. An Englishman, on the contrary, may seek wealth with as much ardor, but he will not evince the same concentration. The pleasures of society and the comforts of a home are never forgotten amid the toils of business; as his receipts increase, so does his expenditure. The deeper he plunges into exports, the more does he relish the society of the great and the sweets of extravagance. It follows as a natural rule, that as he brings less energy to bear on his great aim, his chances of success are less in proportion to those of the American, whose whole soul is engrossed in his pursuit. After the prize is once gained, the American is in general far more prodigal of money than the foreigner; but during the exciting struggle he is not extravagant, not only for want of inclination, but from absolute want of time.

Scheming planning, contriving, executing, as we all of us are, from January to December, with that inexhaustible fund of energy with which we are endowed, occasional mishaps are inevitable. And this is not the least of the distinctive marks between America and the rest of the world. When a merchant fails in England he seldom rises again; superhuman energy is requisite to raise him to anything like the position he once occupied. In France, the laws deprive the bankrupt of his civil and civic rights—he is an outcast. Here, on the contrary, instead of fettering enterprise by such an absurd brand of ignominy, society strives to compensate the unfortunate merchant for the losses his energy has caused him. His fellow-merchants, far from driving him from their circle, evince a noble pride in lending him a helping hand to rise from the dust. His misfortunes are forgotten, his errors are charitably overlooked, and the very men whose income has been sadly reduced by his failure are the first to tender their aid to the bankrupt. We hesitate not to ascribe to this source much of our commercial prosperity. The general confidence which exists among our merchants may open a door for frauds; knaves may presume on the good faith of their neighbors to perpetrate an occasional swindle; but these petty accidents are not worth notice in a general review of our trade, while the benefit accruing from the same source is a powerful element in accelerating our progress. To the country at large no trade is so profitable as that in which the greatest number of individual disasters—occurring in a legitimate business way—afford evidence of the effervescent energy of the mercantile community.

ONE OF THE BEAUTIES OF THE PLURALITY LAW—GOVERNOR OF MAINE.—At the last election for State officers in Maine, John Hubbard received, for the office of Governor, 41,999 votes, and William G. Crosby received 29,127; but the votes cast for Hubbard not being a majority of the whole number given, there being some three or four candidates, the choice of Governor devolved on the Legislature. According to the constitution of the State, the House of Representatives, in the event of no choice being made by the people, nominates two candidates, from which the Senate elects one as Governor. Notwithstanding that the State gave 9,210 democratic majority at the last Presidential election, and notwithstanding that Hubbard received 12,852 votes more than Crosby at the late contest, and that the popular branch of the Legislature is largely democratic, the Senate, on the 14th instant, by three majority, elected William G. Crosby, the whig candidate, Governor of the State. Mr. Crosby may make a good Executive officer, and is, no doubt, personally, a very estimable man, but he certainly will represent the political feelings of but a comparatively small portion of the voters of his State.

THE TEHUANTEPEC QUESTION.—According to the last accounts from Mexico, there is yet a prospect that that government will concede to the United States, through some company or other, the advantages of the Tehuantepec route as an overland line of communication between the Atlantic and Pacific. The Mexican paper, *El Siglo*, urges a *pronunciamento* in favor of Col. A. G. Sloo and Company, from which, we presume, the Garay contract still continues to be regarded as a dead letter. Col. Sloo is now here, and his object is, no doubt, to enlighten the members of both houses of Congress on the real position of the Tehuantepec question in the city of Mexico. Meantime, we should like to know what has become of the resolution of Mr. Mason, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, declaratory of a *casus belli* against Mexico on account of her repudiation of the Garay treaty. Having had a smart brushing up of the Nicaragua treaty, can't we now have a little stir and a little light on the Tehuantepec question? Has Mr. Senator Mason nothing to say on that subject? Let him speak out. Let us have the documents. Let him keep up the fire.

THE WASHINGTON REPUBLIC—A NEW PROJECT.—We are informed, by one of our Washington correspondents, that Gen. Duff Green is the man who is negotiating for the purchase of the *Republic*. That paper, since the late election, finds itself, we presume, in the position of Othello—its occupation is gone—and is ready to pull up stakes, sell out, and abdicate. But if the establishment falls into the hands of Gen. Green, let our abolition cotemporaries of the *National Era*, the New York *Tribune*, and *Evening Post*, look well to their beloved *protége*, the black prince of Hayti; for we venture to say that the expulsion of Soulouque, and the re-occupation of the whole island by the whites, and its annexation as a slaveholding State to this Union, will become a leading object of the *Republic*, after its transformation into a democratic organ. Let the free soil allies of the black despot be warned in time. The horizon is full of gathering clouds, and Hayti is in danger.

CALORIC AND STEAM.—On Saturday Broadway was enveloped in steam; but yesterday there was a general demand for stoves, grates, and all sorts of caloric engines. Ericsson rises as the thermometer goes down. Nothing like caloric.

Theatrical.

The past week has been peculiarly distinguished by the contemporaneous appearance in opera, in the two principal theatres of this metropolis, of the two greatest *artistes* of which the age can boast. The absorbing topic of conversation in musical circles has therefore been the opera, and the two great vocalists who now divide public attention in this city. The operatic *furore*, combined with the sleighing *furore*, which, for the latter portion of the week, has swallowed up all rival amusements, have, as might be expected, somewhat injuriously affected the dramatic establishments of the city; but yet, on the whole, the latter have been doing a thriving and prosperous business.

Niblo's theatre has been wholly devoted, during the week, to the operatic representations of Madame Sontag and her splendid *troupe*. This distinguished *artiste* made her *début* on Monday evening, in the opera of the "Daughter of the Regiment," before a crowded and brilliant house, which signalized its appreciation of her exquisite performance by continuous plaudits. It was a triumph of which an *artiste* even so celebrated as Madame Sontag might well be proud. Pozzolini and Badiali were also excellent in their several *rôles* of Tonio and Sulpice. The orchestra, under the leadership of Carl Eckert, executed the instrumental music with great *éclat*, and the scenic effect of the presentation was admirable. In fact, "Le Figlia del Reggimento" could never have been better rendered than it was by Sontag and her corps. The indisposition of the Countess prevented its repetition on the following Wednesday, but on Friday it was again presented to another overflowing and brilliant house. This evening the comic opera of the "Barber of Seville" will be performed, with Madame Sontag as Rosina, Badiali as the Barber, and Pozzolini as Almaviva. We doubt not that the audience will be well worthy of the occasion.

Madame Alboni has well maintained the high reputation which she acquired by her first week's performance in opera in this city. Broadway theatre has been filled each night that she has appeared with fashionable and appreciative audiences. The "Daughter of the Regiment" has been repeated with as great success as attended its first representation, and "La Sonnambula" has also been presented. Madame Alboni achieved a most brilliant triumph in the *rôle* of Amina; but the defects of some of her assistants rendered it necessary to defer its repetition until their place could be better filled. Here, as in Niblo's, the opera announced for this evening is the "Barber of Seville," to be followed by a ballet divertisement.

Burton's has been enjoying its wonted reputation and prosperity. The principal feature during the week has been the excellent operatic, panoramic, and pantomimic comedy of "Paris and London," diversified with "Paul Pry," "Laugh and Grow Fat," &c. To-night, "Paris and London" is to be presented for the last time, for the benefit of Mr. H. Placide, the incomparable Hippolyte de Frizac.

Wallack's has been also basking in the sunshine of popular favor. The performances of the week have been distinguished by their great diversity. No less than fourteen different pieces have been put upon the stage, comprising "Money," "School for Scandal," "High Life Below Stairs," "Speed the Plough," "Cousin Walter," &c. For this evening, the pieces of the "Irish Heiress," and "A Practical Man," are announced.

The Bowery theatre has re-opened since the death of its late distinguished proprietor, Mr. Hamblin. The "Hebrew Son" has had some further representations during the week, with "Der Freischutz" and "Putnam." To-night, "The Bohemian Girl" and "Rookwood" are to be played.

The National has been upholding its popularity with a good company of *artistes*. The "Eve of Waterloo," "Gale Breezely," &c., have been performed during the week, and to-night "Richelieu" is to be presented.

White's Theatre of Varieties, with Charles Smith as leading actor, is making its way in popular estimation. A great variety of amusing pieces have been performed during the week to good houses. To-night, the pieces announced are "All That Glitters is Not Gold," "The Rough Diamond," "Perfection," &c.

The German National theatre, 53 Bowery, has put in its claims for public support, and as it seems to be well managed, we presume it will not fail in doing a good business, with the many thousand children of "faderland" resident in this city.

Barnum's Museum has been reaping a rich harvest during the carnival days. Tom Thumb has lost none of his attractions for the ladies, and "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" will always have attractions for the young.

Heller has been exhibiting his tricks of legerdemain and *diablerie* to astonished spectators, in 539 Broadway.

The Circus in the Bowery has been largely patronized during the week.

Christy's and Wood's Minstrels appear never to be in the slightest degree affected by the other amusements going on in the city. Their concert rooms are full every night. Besides all the establishments specially referred to in the foregoing review, there have been several other popular places of amusement open during the week, including Banvard's exhibition of Palestine, Risley's Thames, the Studio Curioso, &c., &c.

Mrs. Sinclair, late Mrs. Forrest, is announced to appear at the Howard Atheneum, Boston, this evening.

Mr. Forrest is still playing in Boston, to crowded houses.

The Opera Troupe in New Orleans is singing to brilliant audiences at the Orleans theatre.

Mrs. Mowatt has been engaged at the National theatre, Washington, and will appear on Wednesday next.

Miss Julia Bennett, who has been playing at St. Louis for the last two or three weeks, has taken a strong hold of the affections of the theatre going public of that place, and the tokens she receives of their regard were such as might gratify the proudest ambition.

Mr. and Miss Nickinson are playing at Buffalo.

Maurice Strakosch proposed some time since to give the citizens of St. Louis operatic entertainments for a month, on condition that they subscribe $9,000 preliminary to his making the necessary engagements. The subscription did not reach the required amount, and the enterprise failed.

Alboni in Sacred Music.

Last evening, Alboni and *troupe* sang, for the first time, in the grand oratorio of *Stabat Mater*, at Metropolitan Hall. Owing, no doubt, to the extreme cold of the night, this immense hall was not filled; but still there was a goodly company in the building, who showed the finest appreciation of the merits of this great *artiste*. The chorus and orchestra were most effective. The overture by the latter was truly magnificent. The new tenor, Arnoldi, acquitted himself with great ability, and Mme. Seidenberg was also most happy. But the great attraction was Alboni, whom the connoisseurs who had heard her in concert and opera, were desirous to hear in sacred music. She fully justified the high opinion entertained of her from the glorious voice she had previously revealed. There was the same rich, overflowing, inexhaustible, and gushing melody—the same deep, sympathetic notes, which take hold of the heart and make it captive. But just as in concert, oratario does not reveal the full power of Alboni. As far as her voice and execution were concerned, she was great; but from the nature of sacred music, there was no scope for action, and Alboni at rest and Alboni in motion, are two different beings. She can only do justice to herself, and can be only appreciated as she deserves, and to the full extent of her genius, from her operatic performances, in which she appears the prodigious *artiste*. She is of too joyous and rollicking a nature, and has too much of jolly flesh and blood, to appear to advantage in sacred music. Jenny Lind and Catherine Hayes looked like saints or angels, but Alboni betrays the woman all through, and no amount of drilling or training can ever make her look pious. Her incomparable voice, however, makes ample atonement for the want of spirituality in her. As a whole, it was a glorious festival in sacred music, and such entertainments cannot be repeated too often on Sunday evenings. The Prayer of Moses was grand.

City Intelligence.

THE WEATHER.—The weather, since yesterday morning, has undergone a great change. About three o'clock on Sunday morning the wind changed to the north, and continued blowing from that point all day. The entire day was the coldest that has been experienced this winter. The thermometer at the HERALD office ranged from fifteen to eighteen degrees above zero all day. At six o'clock last evening, the mercury stood at fourteen degrees above zero. The sleighing was kept up all day. Several people received serious injuries from falls, the ice on the sidewalks being very dangerous and slippery.

FUNERAL OF TWO MORE OF THE VOLUNTEERS.—Two more of this gallant band were conveyed to their last resting place yesterday. William Smith and John Hinck, the former twenty-three, and the latter fifty-two years of age, who died during last week, were the victims of disease contracted in Mexico, during the late war with that country. At half-past two o'clock P. M., the procession moved from the Mercer Street House. Both bodies were deposited in one hearse, which was drawn by four gray horses, covered with mourning; the coffins were wrapped in an American flag. The Baxter Guards led the procession, after which followed the Empire Band, who played the dead march; the hearse, on both sides of which marched a portion of the remnant of the Volunteers, as the guard of honor, then followed. In the rear of the hearse were the remainder of the Volunteers and the friends of the deceased. In the line of the procession was one of the veterans of the war of 1812, who looked, to all appearance, as hale and as hearty as any one who joined the funeral. The procession marched down Broadway to Fulton street, and thence over the Fulton ferry to Greenwood Cemetery, where the remains of the deceased were interred with all military honors. It is our sad duty to inform the public that John Hinck, one of the deceased, died for want of the common necessaries of life. His body presented a melancholy appearance, nothing more than a mere skeleton remaining of him who was once strong and healthy. His residence was a most miserable hole, not fit for any human being to live in. Within the last five weeks, six of the volunteers have left this for a better world. All of these deaths have been occasioned by disease contracted in Mexico. Several of these men are now in abject want, and, if nothing is done for them, they will in a short time follow the steps of their brethren to a home where all their troubles will be at an end.

AN UNPLEASANT TRIP.—The passengers who left this city on the morning of the 13th inst. for Albany, by the Hudson River Railroad, were twenty-five hours on the train; and on their arrival opposite Albany, they found that the ice in the river impeded the running of the ferry boats, which compelled them to continue their journey to Troy before they were able to find a safe crossing, from whence they took stage to their destination.

FIRE.—About half-past three o'clock yesterday afternoon, the pilot house of the Whitehall (belonging to the Hamilton avenue ferry) was discovered to be on fire. Officer Thrall, of the First ward, was promptly on the spot, and with the combined aid of Captain White, G. Van Duyne, and the hands of the boat, succeeded in getting the fire under control before it had done any further damage.

THE OUTGOING.—A complimentary presentation was made on Saturday evening last, by those formerly connected with the City Inspector's Department, to Dr. A. W. White, late City Inspector. The presentation was made with appropriate remarks, which were eloquently responded to. The present was of a national and becoming character, being a set of full length portraits of Washington, Clay, and Webster, most richly and elegantly framed, reflecting credit on the taste of the donors and properly worthy the deserving recipient. Dr. Downing and others, of the department under the new administration, were present.

TESTIMONIAL.—There will be a meeting of the friends of Mr. Macgregor Macdonald, at the Astor House, this (Monday) evening, at half-past seven o'clock, to consider the propriety of presenting him with a suitable testimonial previous to his departure for California on a professional visit. He has many friends, and the meeting will no doubt be a large one.

ANOTHER SUDDEN DEATH OF A CHILD ON RANDALL'S ISLAND.—Coroner Gamble was notified, yesterday, to hold an inquest on the body of a boy who was found dead in his bed, at Randall's Island, on Sunday morning. The sudden and unaccountable death of children on this island appears to be a singular affair, as this boy makes the second death within the last two weeks—at least so we are informed. It is to be hoped that Coroner Gamble will fully investigate the whole matter. The system adopted at Randall's Island, of separating the children from their parents, is said to cause many of them to pine away and die with a broken heart. If such is the case some remedy ought to be applied.

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE.—Coroner Hilton held an inquest Thursday, at the City Hospital, upon the body of a man named James Humferson, who died in that institution from the effects of a wound which he made in his throat with a razor, on Saturday, the 8th instant, whilst he was laboring under a fit of temporary insanity. The facts connected with the distressing case were testified to by his wife and Surgeon Cooper. The jury rendered a verdict of death from insanity, and the effect of the wound made upon his throat by his own hands. Deceased was thirty-six years of age, and a native of Shropshire, England.

Coroner Gamble held an inquest Thursday evening, at the hospital, Ward's Island, upon the body of a German girl, named Pauline Hoffman, who drowned herself by jumping from the pier head into the river, on Thursday morning. It appeared, from the evidence of the *employés* of the institution, that deceased was laboring under a nervous depression of spirits, arising from an idea that her parents had cast her off because she had been born with a slight but peculiar mark upon her face. The jury rendered a verdict of suicide by drowning. The deceased was about seventeen years of age.

ATTEMPT TO COMMIT SUICIDE.—At half-past eight on Sunday morning, a woman named Emma Witherton attempted to commit suicide by precipitating herself into the river at the Fulton ferry. Luckily she was rescued by two policemen before she could accomplish her object. She was conveyed to the police court by the police.

RESCUED FROM DROWNING.—On Saturday, a man named James Williams fell into the river, foot of Dey street, and was rescued from a watery grave by officer Wright and a few citizens.

SUDDEN DEATH.—Coroner Hilton held an inquest Thursday, at his office, City Hall, upon the body of Geoffrey Fowers, a native of Ireland, aged about forty years, who dropped dead at No. 149 Anthony street, on Thursday morning. It appeared from medical testimony, that he died from [illegible]